

moved and shaken—God forbid my brethren. Let us then love her and constantly pray that she may be supplied with faithful, pious Ministers, that she may the more effectually extend her benign influences, and bring the greater number of sinners within her pale.

Some of you my brethren, may not perhaps have attentively considered the subject of church government, and may in consequence thereof be disposed to think that forms of ecclesiastical government are not of very great importance provided the gospel be preached. I admit that they would be of very little importance if one particular form—I mean that by Bishops, Presbyters, and Deacons was not a divine institution. I have already alluded to the frightful consequences of rejecting this form and introducing in its stead those of human invention and contrivance—heresies, scisms, and endless divisions have been the bitter fruits of such conduct—the fact is undeniable. But do you imagine my brethren that every man who sets himself up as a teacher of christianity without any lawful authority for so doing, preaches the gospel. The Unitarian, who denies the divinity of Christ says—he has the gospel; so says the Universalist; so says the Quaker; and so say the numerous discordant sects, that are constantly quarrelling, dividing, and bringing contempt upon the christian religion. Be not deceived my brethren. I have stated to you the *real* cause of such a melancholy state of things.

But if any of you should ask, may not the hearers of any preacher escape the displeasure of God, even though the person who instructs them teach them unscriptural doctrines, &c., will not he alone be responsible for the mischief and injury done to the spiritual interests of his hearers—If any of you think so, ask yourselves whether children escape the consequences of their parent's bad example and ill conduct—Do we not daily see them suffering in various ways by the neglect and irregular lives of their parents. Such is the mysterious economy and arrangement of the Almighty Creator—away then my brethren with the delusion that one church is as good as another, and that the hearers of any religious instructor will escape the anger and displeasure of God, even though he teach them anti-scriptural erroneous doctrine.

The latter clause of my text relates to diligence. In addition to stedfastness, the Corinthians are exhorted to abound at the same time in the work of the Lord—"Be ye stedfast immovable says the Apostle, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

Christian diligence should be manifested in reference to ourselves, by directing our conduct and lives agreeably to God's holy will. We must during our stay here work out our Salvation with fear and trembling. It is the appointment of the Almighty Creator, that there exists a variety of pursuits, and different modes of employment amongst mankind. He did not intend that christianity should